

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SAJ-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /083 W

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R 101555Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5662

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ROME 02231

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IT

SUBJ: LABOR LEADERS MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER MORO

REF : ROME'S 2179

1. ACCORDING TO ALL AVAILABLE REPORTS, THE MEETING LAST NIGHT (FEB. 9) BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE MORO AND THE TOP CCU LABOR LEADERS (LAMA-STORTI-VANNI) WENT REASONABLY WELL. WHILE THE UNION LEADERS WERE NOT HAPPY WITH EVERYTHING THEY HEARD, A GENERALLY POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE PREVAILED.

2. THE UNION LEADERS, UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM THEIR NATIONAL UNIONS, EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO MORO'S PROPOSAL TO FREEZE WAGE/SALARY INCREASES FOR ALL WHO EARN MORE THAN 5 MILLION LIRE (APPROXIMATELY \$7500) ANNUALLY. (WAGE ESCALATION PROVISIONS WOULD CONTINUE IN FORCE). THE SIMPLE REASON IS THAT THIS WOULD AFFECT A LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN CERTAIN UNIONS (ELECTRICIANS, BANK WORKERS, TEXTILE WORKERS AMONG OTHERS). REPORTEDLY, MORO'S ECONOMIC PLANNERS (PRIMARILY PROF. ANDREATTA) WILL REVISE THIS CEILING UPWARD TO 10 MILLION LIRE, A LEVEL WITH WHICH THE UNIONS WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE LITTLE UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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DIFFICULTY SINCE IT WILL LEAVE THEIR MEMBERS VIRTUALLY UNAFFECTED.

3. WHEREAS THE CCU LEADERS HAD INDICATED THEY WERE ONLY GOING TO LISTEN TO MORO'S PRESENTATION, SOURCES STATE THERE WAS IN FACT A LIVELY DISCUSSION CONDUCTED IN A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE.

THIS LED /CORRIERE DELLA SERA/, ITALY'S LEADING DAILY, TO HEAD-LING THAT "MORO CROSSES THE RUBICON" IN HIS ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS.

4. COMMENT. ONE CISL SOURCE HAS POINTED OUT THAT, IF A FREEZE OF THE WAGES AND SALARIES OF ALL THOSE EARNING 10 MILLION LIRE IS CARRIED OUT, PRIMARILY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC VOTERS WILL BE AFFECTED. THE DC IS IN NO POSITION TO ALIENATE ANY OF ITS SHRINKING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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